

Dear Sirs, As a licensed amateur radio operator I have always found the FCC to be a well run, competent, and fair organization so I can not believe that you would even consider the NAB's petition 04-160. It is an obvious ploy on their part to protect themselves in the market place and stamp out any competition. Do not let them use you as a tool to feed their greed and lack of ingenuity. Instead of wasting all this time and energy trying to oppose competition what they should be doing is finding new and innovative ways to encourage consumers to "want" to use their products. They should not be trying to use the government to try and "force" consumers to use their products. Freedom of choice...

I myself am a new subscriber to XM radio. Local programming is not even offered in my area yet but I long for the day when it is. I switched to XM because I got tired of driving an hour a day to and from work, wanting to hear music and all every local station played was ad's and talk that was most often incompetent and insulting. It got to the point where I almost never turned on the radio and would just listen to the same CD a hundred times. If the local stations offered more quality content and less advertising like XM I most likely would not have switched but I would rather pay for a service that gives me what I want than one that spends all its time either trying to sell me something or insult my intelligence.

On the other hand, some people (like my father in law) will never pay for broadcasting. He still has an antenna on his roof for TV and says he will never pay for cable or satellite. That is his choice and I am sure there are many like him but that didn't stop the cable companies and the Satellite TV companies from growing though I am sure the NAB tried to stop them as well. In fact, they now offer local TV on Satellite so how can you even consider not allowing local radio on XM?

Please don't take away my rights to choose.

Thank you,

Walter Raif